

Peter A.B. Widener House
120D N. Broad Street, at NW corner Girard Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1742

HABS
PA
51-PHILA
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA		COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) WIDENER, PETER A.B., HOUSE			HABS NO. PA-1742
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 1200 N. Broad Street, at NW corner Girard Avenue			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1887		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Willis G. Hale, architect; George Herzog, decorator.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) An important large eclectic mansion with an interesting interior, and one of the many typically large mansions built in late 19th century and early 20th century. Peter A.B. Widener was a wealthy entrepreneur and developer of street railway syndicates in Philadelphia and Chicago. The house was destroyed in a 1980 fire.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brownstone ashlar and brick.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Approx. 53' (six-bay front) X 144'; four-and-a-half stories on raised basement.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Arched entrance with curved double stairway; corner bay windows with conical roofs; dormers; chimneys; hipped roof with Flemish cross gables; curvilinear walls.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Original plans included parlors, a banquet room, an art gallery, and a drinking fountain. Original murals, frescoes and other art work were by George Herzog, a very good artist who had done art work in other local buildings. Stairhall walls were embellished with alabaster and bronze. A conservatory was added later, and was said to contain some valuable plants.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. <u>Evening Bulletin</u> . Newspaper articles, 1979 and 1980.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey			DATE August, 1984